

Preface

This book arises from a comparative research project which has its roots in several homes in Canada and China. I benefitted from the generous support of my supervisor Prof. Roach at the University of Toronto and my dearest friend Mr. Monkman in Ottawa. In 2011, I was granted funding through participation in the Canada-China Scholars' Exchange Program, which enabled me to undertake a comparison between wrongful convictions in between Canada and China. From 2012 to 2013, I had a great time at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law, researching such convictions from a comparative perspective. After returning to Beijing, I conducted some interviews with justice personnel and collected data from numerous cases involving potential miscarriages of justice, so as to further complete my empirical study.

My ultimate goal is to offer the broad legal and factual bases necessary for a better understanding of wrongful convictions in China's judicial practice through comparative analyses, verifiable and empirical data and case studies. My hope is that this book will contribute to dialogues about such convictions from diverse perspectives. Over 2 years have passed since the implementation of the *2012 Criminal Procedure Law of the PRC*, so the time has come to summarize the lessons from wrongful convictions in China that can be learned from decades of repeated failures. Given the new challenges facing China in its transition to the adversarial system, it is very essential to compare how liberal Western countries and authoritarian China have responded to the public challenges created by wrongful convictions.

This book will start from a diverse understanding of the scope of wrongful convictions in various contexts and will further examine the similarities between the causes of such convictions in many countries around the world. Based on case studies, the different roots of wrongful convictions will be demonstrated in each

sample country in order to examine how far the movement for prevention has progressed. China's inadequate response to wrongful convictions will also suggest some institutional dilemmas in its justice practice and call for new strategies for better prevention of such convictions in the near future.

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